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Innovation, Trade and Rural Development
Tourism, Culture and Recreation
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Projects Announced for Bonavista Peninsula

Infrastructure on the Bonavista Peninsula has received a boost with $777,967 in investments from the Provincial Government. With a total project value of $4.2 million, the restoration of Bonavista's Garrick Theatre and Port Union's Old Salt Fish Plant and Retail Store will advance the economic potential of the area.

"These projects help support the growing interest in the province's cultural tourism sector, along with making it an attractive location for commercial enterprises," said the Honourable Trevor Taylor, Minister of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development. "Restoring these buildings preserves our past and prepares for the future. As a government, we are committed to providing community groups with access to the necessary resources to leverage existing strengths and expand the economic potential of a community."

The Honourable Clyde Jackman, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Recreation, said these investments support the province's efforts to protect and preserve the built heritage of Newfoundland and Labrador – and to use restored properties to support local economies.

"Restoration of Bonavista's Garrick House will add to the region's historic attractions and provide a venue for cinematic and cultural events," Minister Jackman said. "Similarly, the preservation of the Old Salt Fish Plant and Retail Store builds on the structural revitalization of historic Port Union, while providing a new, exciting business opportunity for the area."

The Provincial Government is contributing $400,000 to the Bonavista Historic Townscape Foundation's $1.6 million renovation of the Garrick Theatre. Renovations to the 200-seat theatre include upgrading the stage, auditorium, seating, along with the installation of a new mechanical and electrical system. The upgraded facility will target theatre-goers year-round through its new ability to host various events.

"This theatre is intended primarily for the benefit of the people who reside in the area, and that's why it is important that it operate year round," said Gordon Bradley, Chair of the Bonavista Historic Townscape Foundation. "This funding will allow the theatre to be properly developed with the equipment needed to offer a full range of live performance events and cinema."

The Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation has additionally received $377,967 towards a $2.6 million project to restore and stabilize two historically-significant properties – the Old Salt Fish Plant and Retail Store.

"The funding the foundation is receiving is essential to ensuring the success of the project and longevity of the Coaker Properties," said Bruce Sweetland, Chair of the Sir William Ford Coaker Heritage Foundation. "Soon, we will have another restoration completed in this National Historical District, making it attractive for businesses to establish commercial and employment opportunities."

Funding was provided through the Provincial Government's Regional/Sectoral Diversification Fund (RSDF). Administered through the Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development, RSDF is a $5 million fund and a component of the province's Comprehensive Regional Diversification Strategy. The fund provides non-repayable contributions to economic development agencies for initiatives that address regional and sectoral development and diversification.

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Media contacts:

Scott Barfoot
Director of Communications
Department of Innovation, Trade and Rural Development
709-729-4570, 690-6290
ScottBarfoot@gov.nl.ca

Heather May
Director of Communications
Department of Tourism, Culture and Recreation
709-729-0928, 697-5061
heathermay@gov.nl.ca

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search | Home | Back to Government | Contact Us | TOP

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